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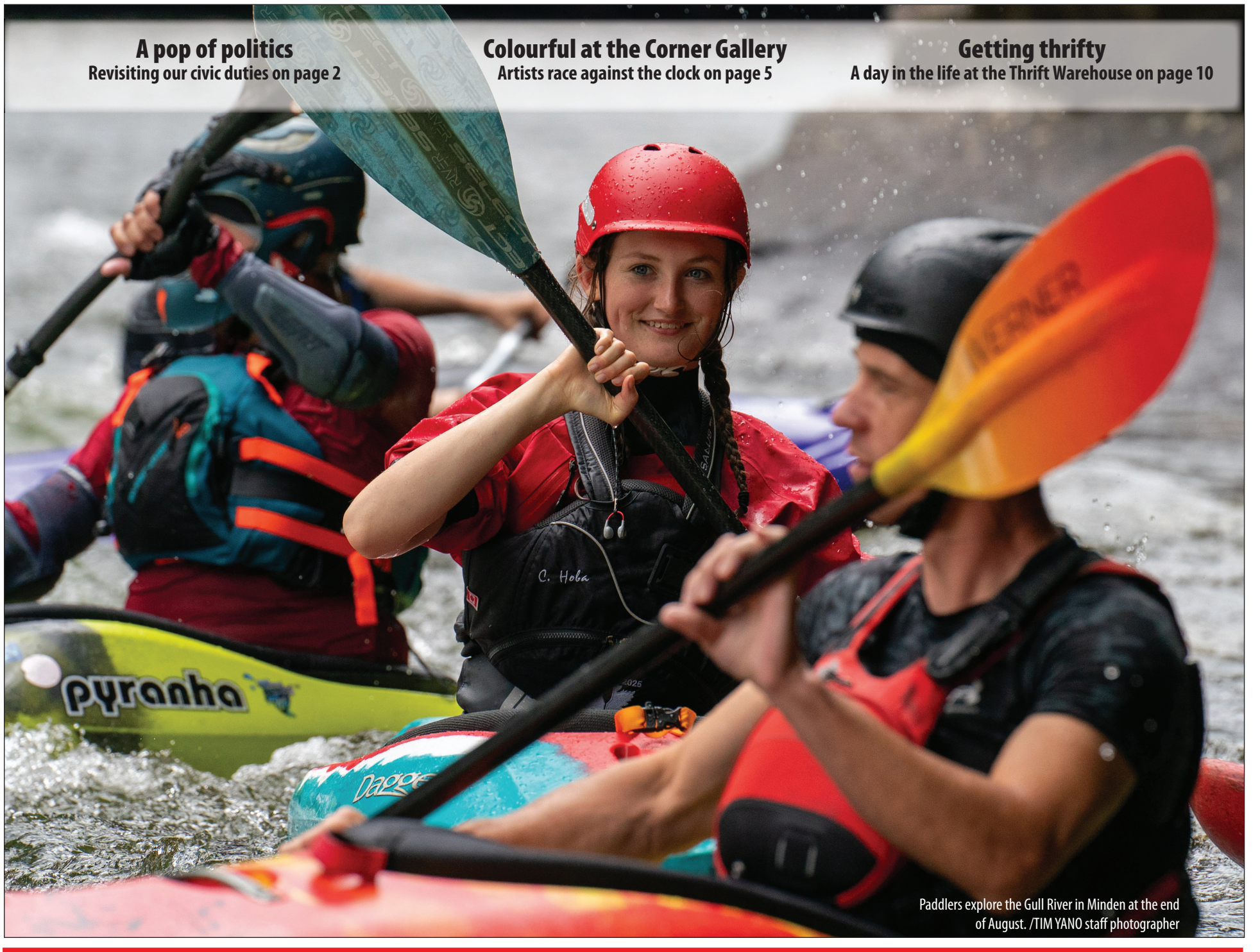

Paddlers explore the Gull River in Minden at the end of August. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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When the House is back in session: what happens next

JESSICA SLADE
Plain Talk Politics

IT'S HARD to believe that summer is coming to an end. Fall means back-to-school for kids, back-to-routine for families, pumpkin spice lattes for the girlies and back-to-Ottawa for our Members of Parliament. You'll often hear the phrase "the House is back in session" on the news. But what does that actually mean - and why should we in Haliburton County care?

What "back in session" means

When the House of Commons is sitting, MPs are in Ottawa to do the work of Parliament:

- Debating and voting on bills that could become law
- Question Period, where the opposition presses the government on its decisions
- Committee work, where MPs study issues in detail, hear from experts, and shape recommendations

This is when the government sets its agenda and when opposition parties can hold it to account. Decisions are made every week that influence our lives - from health care transfers and climate policy to rural broadband and infrastructure funding.

A familiar face returns

This fall also brings a change in the balance of debate. Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre, who lost his seat in the last federal election, has returned to the Commons after winning a by-election. While he's not new to Parliament, his return means he is once again across from the Prime Minister in Question Period - putting pressure on the government on issues like affordability, housing, and health care.

And closer to home, our MP Jamie Schmale is back in Ottawa representing Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes. He takes part in these debates, votes, and committees. When the House is in session, our voices are on the floor through him - but only if we speak up about what matters here.

What about the budget?

Over the summer, the federal government held pre-budget consultations, where Canadians could submit their priorities for Budget 2025. That process has now closed. Finance officials will review the submissions, Cabinet will deliberate, and we'll see how those ideas shape the next budget.

Sometimes, the government also delivers a Fall Economic Statement, a kind of fiscal check-in. It doesn't happen every year, but when it does, it gives us an early look at spending priorities before the full budget is released in the spring.

Why this matters for Haliburton

It can be easy to think Ottawa is far away, but the reality is that decisions made there reach right into our community. Transfers affect local hospitals and health care. Infrastructure dollars can help maintain rural roads and bridges. Broadband funding determines how connected we are. And environmental protections shape the future of our lakes and forests.

When MPs are back in session, those choices are being made - and they affect both year-round residents and seasonal cottagers here in Haliburton County.

Healthy democracy at home

Of course, democracy doesn't only happen in Ottawa. It happens here, too. That's why the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project (HHHDP) was launched - to make local government more accessible, to encourage more voices at the table, and to strengthen democracy from the ground up.

This fall, the project is running the Voices & Votes Speaker Series, a set of free, non-partisan community events open to all:

Session 1 - Partnership in Action: Community + Council
Monday, Sept. 16, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Haliburton Legion
Featuring me, Civics with Slade, and local success stories, this session explores how local government and community members can work together to drive change.

Session 2 - Finding Your Why: The Big Picture
Monday, Oct. 7, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Lloyd Watson Community Centre, Wilberforce
Featuring former MPs Barry Devolin (Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes–Brock) and Maryam Monsef (Peterborough–Kawartha), this session explores why being informed and engaged - as a candidate, supporter, or voter - is essential to how change is made.

Two more sessions will follow in Spring 2026, focusing on what it's like to run for office and what makes campaigns successful.

A call to action

So, what does it mean when the House is back in session? It means MPs are back at work debating, questioning, and making decisions that shape our country. It means the government is setting its agenda for the year ahead. And it means it's the right time for us to pay attention again.

You don't have to watch every debate or read every bill. But you can check in on what your MP is saying, follow the headlines about key issues, and - most importantly - get involved locally. Because democracy doesn't just live on Parliament Hill. It's also alive right here in Haliburton County, too.

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What do we like?

TERESA JORDAN
Community Living Contemplations

I SPENT some time with my eight-year-old niece recently, and Taylor Swift came on the radio. She quickly said that she hated Taylor Swift. I told her that I admired lots of things about Taylor; her hard work, her business, her dedication to her team and how she conducted herself in the world. My niece quickly added that her friend group of five girls all hate Taylor Swift, so there is no way that she can like her.

When I pressed for details, she admitted to liking some songs, but that the social risk was too great. I am sure we can remember back to being pressured by our friends, when our sole goal was often to fit in. When I asked her if she thought that maybe other girls were secretly admiring Taylor also and that perhaps her admitting would give others the confidence to offer a different opinion, that was a flat refusal, the power of peers just too strong in this age group.

I was transported back to my own young girl self trying so hard to fit in and I backed off knowing that this is a force we all reckon with. I guess for us as we move beyond those years, we need to check that we are not still carrying some eight-year-old programming about needing to fit in or play it small or hide parts of ourselves.

There is truly no rule book for how to show up in the world, and there is no one better suited at being our true selves than us. So as adults, it's worth checking on what we do or don't do now to see if that is in fact a reflection of ourselves and not that early programming about a strong need to fit in. A little double check to ensure that if we say we like a certain kind of eggs, that it's because we do, not because our partner does, I may have got that from an old Julia Roberts movie.

In a community where everyone can be exactly who they are, everyone then starts to feel comfortable in sharing their gifts and not confined by a group attitude. In that scenario, everyone finds a place and belongs, including Swifties. Are there still parts of us that we have not re-examined to ensure that we are being absolutely true to what we want, need and love, it's worth a double check.

Bear baits

RIGHT NOW, across Ontario, there are hundreds of bear baits in the woods. That means no one who is lost in the woods will ever starve.

Having said that, there is etiquette when you stumble across a bear bait in the middle of the woods.

First, check for trail cameras before you dig in.

Second, try not to eat all the good stuff.

Being aware of bear baits is especially pertinent if you are camping. First, you don't want to camp near one, because it's sort of like having your office right next door to the fridge. Also bears…

STEVE GALEA

Beyond 35

More importantly, you do not want to compete with a bear bait and win.

I know. It's hardly possible. After all, bear baits are filled with day old donuts, molasses, bread, old cereal, popcorn and the like. Meanwhile, your campsite larder is probably stocked with healthy food and too much granola.

Even so, you don't want to risk it.

How do you know that your campsite is competing with a bear bait? The signs are subtle. There might be noises in the middle of the night, bear tracks in the soft dirt, claw marks nearby trees– or a bear sitting on your cooler. Any of these are telltale signs.

And, if you experience any one of them, you should relocate your campsite – possibly to your front yard.

Before it gets that far, however, you should probably know that there are other ways to deal with bears. Sometimes it's as simple as covering one of the less helpful campers in maple syrup while they sleep. Other times it requires a bit more effort – maintaining a bear hang.

A bear hang is when you place all your edible food in a bag or barrel attached to a rope which you throw over a high limb, hoist out of reach, and tie so it remains there until you need it. Two important skills are required: vertical rope throwing and reliable knot tying.

Not enough had been written about either.

The average person throwing a rope vertically 20 or so feet high takes about 600 or so attempts before deciding to pass the rope to another person "to see if you can do any better!" It is so difficult that I have long held bear hang roping ought to be an Olympic event.

The second part, reliable knot tying, is not as difficult but equally important. You basically take the end of the rope not attached to the barrel and after hoisting the barrel up, tie a reliable knot to anything in reach to keep the food bag suspended. You know you are doing it wrong, if after tying the knot you see the rope slip and rise out of reach and hear "Ouch!" or words to that effect shortly afterwards.

The upside is that this can often create a lifelong memory for the kids, as it can be the first time they ever heard mommy swear at daddy.

It also precedes another 600 vertical rope throws.

Once you work out those wrinkles, you have essentially set up a pinata for bears and racoons to play with all night. This is good because if that's the case, they'll be too tired to chase you in the morning.

Even this is not foolproof, however. Every now and then you'll run into one of those critters smart enough to undo the knot. You'll know that is the case, because in the middle of the night, you'll hear "Ouch!"

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Origami for sale

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

THIS WAS my grandson's earnest cry, on repeat for visibility, to every passerby on bicycle, ATV or in running shoes for a few hours the other week. He also waved down vehicles, and when they inevitably stopped, he gave the same reason. He was selling origami.

He'd found a portable table and chairs, and propped himself alone (adults were always nearby) with his wares and WiFi tablet at the end of our driveway. YouTube was simultaneously instructing him on how to move on from plainest folding so he could feature future diversification. Each new design was beautifully tidy and precise. His dad remotely added an atmospheric video game soundtrack to the event, and then it became very real.

I didn't realize there was a strong demand for construction paper jumping frogs or five multi-coloured 'claws' flattened and bundled into blue Canada Post elastics. But everyone either waved, honked, or paused to buy something from this friendly little achiever, or told him to actually hold onto his impressive creations. Simply donating to his pop-up business felt honourable.

He was delighted! Our next-door neighbour was impressed with the resourcefulness, and had never seen anything like this. Others admitted that they weren't sure what origami was, or that it could be so fun. Some had no coins, and offered five dollars for which they requested either little, or no change at all. But eventually, my grandson had collected enough loose cash to break small bills for his customers. After this, the boy insisted on handing back appropriate coinage. He did most of the math in his head.

His sister, finishing up a Gordon Korman novel indoors, ultimately joined him, and side-by-side they carried on accumulating and counting profits. By the time his parents had packed up everyone's gear for their Toronto return, my grandson's Haliburton holiday enterprise had garnered over $40. This represented a fortune to him, and he intended to add it to other personal wealth so he could buy a robot. Although all earnings fitted nicely inside a mini cardboard Happy Meal box, it felt like huge money. This wasn't mere allowance for unimaginative chores like washing dishes or vacuuming. It was actual pay, a clinking dividend for skills and efforts, a prize for self-sufficiency, a weighty outcome for direct and assertive business initiative.

He was discovering his own potential. He'd already practiced marketing as a city Cub Scout selling apples, among other fundraising and charitable community participation. It was something he could already do, and consistently improve upon with dedicated research, investment, persistence, his very devoted personal team, and occasional snacks.

Whether motivated to raise funds for others (apples, cookies, lemonade), or setting up independently as a bona fide vendor with sights already on next steps, an artistic kid's gotta start somewhere. He's experiencing some of the best ways to pick up know-how: research, collaboration, experimentation, adaptation, *and* … taking risks.

It takes a village to raise a child. This village mirrored kindness to a very trusting one.

/Submitted by Deb Reed

Artists reveal their true colours at the Corner Gallery

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

The artists who participated in the Reveal art challenge at the Corner Gallery in Haliburton on Aug. 9. Each artist was given the same reference shot, and they were able to add their own spin to it. /submitted

Sticking with his mandate of making art approachable and accessible for all, Corner Gallery curator David Partridge put a new spin on an old idea.

One reference photo. Four artists. A handful of hours ticking away. And four completely different results.

Partridge hosted a live, in-house painting event on Saturday, Aug. 9 at the Corner Gallery in Haliburton, where featured artists went head-to-head whilst creating their own interpretation of a surprise image, with an audience along for the ride.

"I had heard about events like this before," said Partridge, but noted that in his experience, they had been more competition-based. "I wanted to make sure that the focus of Reveal was on letting the artists run with their own styles, and to put very little limitations on the work itself. None, actually. All of the artists here are the best. There's no need for them to prove it."

On top of removing the barriers that so often crop up when competition is involved, Partridge was planning another surprise. While the artists involved were prepared to paint from one set reference photo, what they didn't know was that the image would be black and white. "This was really the best part, to me," said Partridge. "They had to invent their own palette. All four were remarkably different."

The artists featured were Marissa Sweet, Holly Hutchinson, James Brown, and Barbara Hart, who all currently have work on display at the Corner Gallery, and each brought their own flare to the piece at-hand. Sweet was the first to say yes to the idea, when Partridge presented it to her. "She's so engaging and enthusiastic," he said. "Her style is immediately recognizable to anyone familiar with her work, and we got to see how she layers the colours - all starting with hot pink. Wild."

Holly Hutchinson wowed the audience when she started adding tinfoil to her piece. "Watching [her] adhere tinfoil to her board had a crowd transfixed while they wondered where it was all going to go," laughed Partridge.

James Brown had some nerves going into the challenge, but had his entire vision mapped out in under four minutes, and never referenced the sample photo again, letting his paintbrush do the talking for the duration of the event. "A great moment was watching [him] accidentally put orange on his painting," recalled Partridge. "It was right next to the intended purple on his palette. As soon as he touched it to the board he said, 'well, now we have to work in a little orange' and he absolutely did. I love the different approaches and seeing them manifest."

And Barbara Hart, a naturally vivacious and enthusiastic artist, captured the crowd with her charisma. "Barbara was so expressive, in fact, that she touched up one of her paintings that was hanging in the gallery while she waited for a layer of paint to dry," laughed Partridge. "It was very cool to watch it happen in real time. It was also very cool to watch them look at each other's works when they were finished."

Partridge noted that he often feels anxious during gallery openings, with expectations and judgements floating through the air.

But this event felt different, on many layers. "It was very tense, because of the time limit, but it was very calm for the spectators because they had this beautiful little window into the process," he said. "The event absolutely met expectations. People were so kind and so happy to be here."

For those who missed the event, hot on the heels of the success from this past Reveal, Partridge is already planning the next one for Sept. 6. "For now, it's only open to the artists in the gallery, but I've already been approached by a few other artists that I love and will certainly be doing some open call events in the future," said Partridge. "There's just no way we shut down this idea when it came together so perfectly."

Partridge hopes that by offering the space to artists and visitors alike, it will remove any barriers and blockades around the art world, and open up creative avenues for all interested. "I want this series to just keep right on representing the Highlands," he said. "The more of these events that we do, the more we're going to get to see what's out there. And get to interact with it. How cool is that?"

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Play

WHAT HAPPENED to play?

No, not a theatrical production, not a button on a remote control, but the simple act of play.

I watch my son as he has started to pick up toys and inspect them; the little gears of his mind whirring and wondering as he fiddles with the plastic wheels of a truck. He's not at an age where play makes sense quite yet, but he's starting to form the early foundations of the elusive artform.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

Our girls are older, and play seems to be a thing of the past. On occasion, they will grab a stuffed animal and cuddle it to their softened cheeks, but for the most part, their eyes seem glued to the future, with the premise a play nothing but a particle from their past.

We all played, at some point. So often, the concept is associated with childhood. Once the rigidity of adulthood takes hold, our abilities to paint beyond the lines gets rewired and reworked; a black and white coil that wrangles the sparkles of surprise that once flowed freely.

There is one account on Instagram that fuels my passion for play. Her name is Rachael Renae, and I hit that blue follow button many moons ago, when she started posting content about dressing in colours. At the time, Renae was an American-based environmental engineer; a career where those black and white lines are generally more defined than other industries.

But she always chose colours. She would present style challenges, where she paired checkers and polka dots, clashing colours, stars and stripes. And she had a following. Thousands from all over the world opted into these challenges: the opportunity to embrace colour in an otherwise dull and dreary world of grey.

Over the years, her content has grown and shifted (as is the expectation of natural evolution,) and she has since left her career as an engineer to instead focus on the power of play. She's in the process of completing her first book, and regularly hosts podcasts and interviews where the whole premise is to simply have fun, and challenge the norms of society that try to keep us in these basic boxes of black and white.

Her ideas for pursuing play are easy. "I make resources about creativity and play to help you live your big, juicy life - whatever that looks like for you," she says.

And while I generally don't flock to online coaching sessions, some of her posts got the gears turning for me. Because play isn't about consumerism or perfectionism, it's about connecting with the bits and pieces of yourself that once felt free.

It could be taking a pottery class, or doodling in a notebook. It could be going on a date with a best friend, or jumping in a lake on a soupy-warm morning. Because at its very core, what is play? It's an abstract term that's difficult to define as an adult, yet it comes naturally to children.

Really, it's all they want to do. Their whole worlds are comprised of wonder and whimsy and imagination and creativity. When did we let go of that? And more importantly: why did we forget?

My kids have reminded me to reconnect with that part of my personality. And really, those thoughts and ideas we have around perfectionism, around performance, around fears that we look silly or may come off as uneducated are wisps in the whirls of our brain that only carry as much weight as we give them.

There is power in play. Freedom in the ability to disconnect with expectations, and reconnect with possibilities. And really, that's the joy in life: those opportunities when we break the coils of conformity that stagnate our psyches, and welcome a world of whimsy and wonder at our finger tips.

We all have that, somewhere deep inside. We just have to remember how to play.

Top 10 reasons why I'll never buy a seat on a space flight

OVER THE last few years, there have been a few opportunities for the mega-rich to fly into space. Fortunately, I'm micro-rich. Regardless of wealth, I would never want to buy a seat on a space-bound flight. Here are the top 10 reasons why:

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. They won't let you use your Air Miles.
2. Mass coffee spillage when booster rockets are deployed.
3. Fine print says, if it breaks down you space walk home.
4. With my luck it would leave out of Newark.
5. I'd rather take the train.
6. TSA got a little handsy last time.
7. Prices much better in the off season.
8. You seen one endless black void, you've seen them all.
9. Tourism campaign for space not exactly inspiring.
10. No economy class.

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Afternoon

Sliver of afternoon Moon rising over the River, sharing Sky with Sun,
rocks bridging the banks, where gulls perch in a row, watching the River flow,
water hiccupping over an obstacle course of rocks, meandering its way downriver, Air, scoured by Rain,
feeling clearer than it has in weeks, as I sit on a bench at the top of the hill, watching
gulls swoop down from Sky,
finding a spot on the rocks, sunning themselves, silent and still, not a squawk from the rocks,
maybe they're lulled by the murmur of water, like me, marveling at how it always finds a way to flow,
a groundhog appearing in the grass, not far from where I sit, poking its head out of the hole
to drink in Air and light
before it burrows its way back into the darkness again, wondering whether my presence frightened it
from exploring the terrain at the top of the hill that slopes down toward the River,
where boulders bulge from its banks, roasting beneath afternoon Sun,
where sprigs of green curl from cracks in their shoulders and backs, growth, always finding a way,
springing from the darkest of places and the smallest of spaces, reaching toward the blazing light of day,
the smudge of Moon rising a smidgen higher over the River, waiting for Night to shine its light
over the skin of water and the bridge of rocks where gulls perch, all in a row,
the screeches of an invisible crow unable to scare them away, as I rise from the bench
and flip-flop my way down the hill toward the riverbank, clambering onto the backs of boulders
that were here before the River flowed, bending down to ruffle the tendrils of green
springing from hidden cracks in the rocks, Life always insinuating itself, sprouting from a single seed,
a tangle of weeds growing among the rocks, as the sickle of Moon dangles above them, s
haring space with Sun,
room for all the green sprigs and tendrils and purple wildflowers to bloom down here on the riverbank,
their sole purpose, to grow, like the River's is to flow, as I watch the River navigate its course,
past the rocks and the flock of gulls that flap back up into Air, their time of rest, over,
as they pockmark Air with their squawks, flying over the River, back up into Sky,
my eyes trailing their flight 'till they grow faint as the smudge of Moon, waiting for Night to shine,
I turn to meander back up the hill, to retrieve my book that I abandoned on the bench,
my feet rooted to the grass, when I see the groundhog emerging from its hole,
no human encroaching on its space as it's free to explore the terrain at the top of the hill,
feeling Air and light before Night blankets it again in the middle of the day,
I remain on the riverbank so I don't frighten it away, clambering onto the bridge of rocks instead,
where the flock of gulls rested their wings beneath afternoon Sun and the sliver of sickle Moon,
rising over the River, waiting for Night to shine, its light silvering the skin of River that never sleeps,
only flows,
because it's all it knows, like grass that grows and Moon that glows,
wondering what my purpose is as I while away this summer afternoon, sitting here on the bridge of rocks,
silent and still as stone, throwing a pebble into the River, watching its current swallow it whole.

Sylvie Kalenda

Making waves

Paddlers took to the Gull River during the annual Gull River Gala at the end of August. The warm temperatures at the end of the month made for a comfortable paddling experience. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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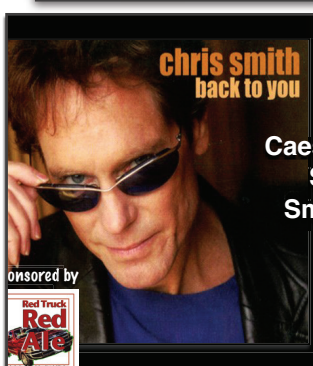


DOMINION HOTEL
Serving Friends & Family Since 1865

Caesar Sunday Happy Hour
Sunday, Sept 7, 4pm
Smooth Jazz, pop, blues

onsored by
Red Truck
Red
Ale

CHRIS
SMITH

DOMINION HOTEL
Serving Friends and Families since 1865

Free Food

Collect points towards rewards on every food purchase. Join online at DominionHotelPub.ca

Dominion Hotel Entertainment

Tue Sep 2	5:00 PM	Gord Kidd Solo	Gord Kidd
Sat Sep 6	6:00 PM	Saturday Live	Gary and the Rough Ideas
Sun Sep 7	4:00 PM	Caesar Sunday Happy Hour	Chris Smith

Info @ https://DominionHotelPub.ca

Join our e-mail newsletter for advance notice of live music and food specials!

113 Main St., Minden (705) 286-6954

Not intended to solicit properties or clients currently listed

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH
Brokerage, Independently Owned and Operated

STARTER HOME $225,000

- One Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bathrooms
- Two Living Spaces and Kitchen
- Main Floor Laundry
- Main Floor Storage

Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative
705-457-8511
lynda@lyndalitwin.ca

ST. NORA LAKE $1,287,000

Beautifully maintained 4 bed, 4 bath year-round home/cottage sits on 150 ft waterfront on St. Nora Lake. Open concept layout. Separate Bunkie. Detached garage with loft. St. Nora Lake is part of a desirable two-lake chain w/ Kushog Lake, great for boating & fishing. Outdoor enthusiasts will love the proximity to snowmobile, ATV, hiking & cross-country skiing trails, making this a four-season paradise.

Kelly Mercer
Broker
705-455-7500
kelly@kelly-mercer.ca

2816 GELERT ROAD

The perfect spot to build. 1.49 acre lot ready to go. Cleared with a paved entrance and gravel driveway in place, it has a solid head start. 2 small outbuildings offer storage or workspace & materials for a 24' x 20' garage are already on site. You just need to build it. Surrounded by nature and loads of wildlife, it's peaceful, private & just a short drive to Minden for all your essentials. This lot has great potential.

Lisa Mercer
Broker
705-457-0364
www.lisamercer.ca
lisa@lisamercer.ca

DRAG LAKE $829,000

Fully winterized waterfront home on Drag Lake. Fully Insulated. New Septic in 2022. Drilled Well. Sandy Shoreline. Screened Sunroom at Waters Edge. Just 5 Min to Haliburton.

John & Marj Parish
John Parish 705-457-5485
Marj Parish 705-455-2211
Sales Representatives

LUXURIOUS HOME WITH POOL $915,000

- 📍 3981 Deep Bay Road
- 🛏 3+1 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
- 💦 Fully fenced In-ground Pool
- 🌳 1.38 acres, 2,000 sq ft Finished living space
- 👨‍🍳 Eat-In Kitchen with Garden doors to exterior
- 🌺 Landscaped yard w/armour stone and perennial gardens throughout
- 🚗 Detached double Car Garage

Cheryl Smith
Sales Representative
705-455-2500
info@cherylsmithremax
cherylsmithremax.com

PEACE & TRANQUILITY ON QUIET FARQUHAR LAKE!

- 4 season executive home
- 3 BR/2 bath, finished basement
- Open concept layout
- 2 w/os to large deck & hot tub
- Gently terraced lot; armor stone landscaped
- 175 + ft water frontage
- 2-car garage + 1-car garage
- Smart home, monitor while your away
- Fully furnished

Sue Sotiriou
Sales Representative
905-715-4569
sue-sotiriou.remax.ca

2166 BLAIRHAMPTON ROAD $559,000

1100 SQ. ft. 3 bedroom bungalow sits on private 5.5 acre lot in peaceville Blairhampton - cozy country kitchen and dining area - 4pc bath - new septic 2018 - full w/o basement unfinished - FA propane - 26' x 40' 2 storey garage - fully insulated - 2nd floor wide open and carpeted - FA propane heating

Ted Vasey
Sales Representative
705-455-2034
ted@tedvasey.ca

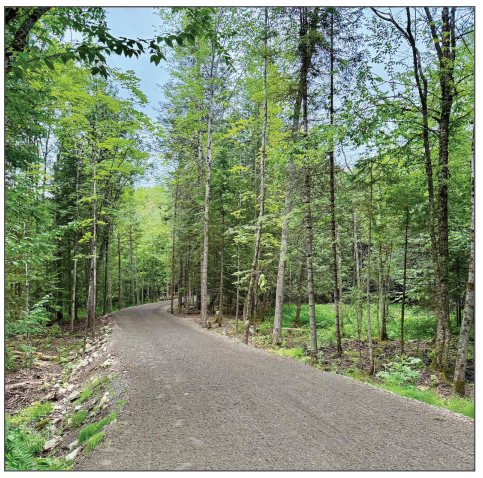
HALIBURTON
191 Highland St., Suite 201
705-457-1011

MINDEN
12621 Highway 35, Unit 1
705-286-2911

WILBERFORCE
2260 Loop Road
705-448-2222

www.professionalsnorth.com
listings@remaxprofessionals.ca

TOM BOLTON ROAD - VACANT LOT $164,900



- Ideal Location To Build Your Dream Home or Getaway!
- Private, well-treed, 4.88-acre parcel.
- Cedar buffer which opens up to a mature mixed hardwood bush.
- Driveway installed, situated on year-round municipal road.
- Centrally located between Haliburton and Minden and just 5 minutes from the Public Boat Launch on Lake Kashagawigamog.

Ken Barry
Broker 705-754-5280
Jacquie Barry
Realtor® 705-457-0652
www. kenbarry.com
Out Standing In Our Field

HOME IN MINDEN $699,000

A 4 bed, 2 bath home in a peaceful neighbourhood, with access into the Gull River right through the creek in the backyard. Well maintained living space with a newly finished basement. Step outside onto the deck overlooking a backyard oasis with a screened in gazebo by the water. Complete with a detached 2 car garage and paved driveway. All within walking distance to local amenities.

Terry Carr & Drew Staniforth
Sales Representatives
705-935-1011
MovingTheHighlands.com

$599,000

1023 Chester Cres.
HARCOURT

- 3 bedrooms/2 baths
- Detached + Attached Garages
- 2,259 sqft finished living space
- Huge covered veranda
- Level lot - 1.93 acres
- Lots of upgrades

FOR SALE!

scan to view the listing!

VINCE **DUCHENE**

GRACE LAKE $1,299,900

- 198' on prestigious Grace Lake
- Lovingly maint. 3 bed/3 ½ bath home
- Spacious layout with great views
- KT/DR combo w/o to large front deck
- Unfin w/o.bsmt w/rec rm & 3 pc bath
- F/A oil furnace, A/C & CVAC
- Attached 3 car, insulated garage
- Sandy shallow shore; gazebo at lake
- Gently sloped lot on yr-rnd mun rd

Rick Forget
Broker
705-457-0580
haliburtonhighlands-remax.ca

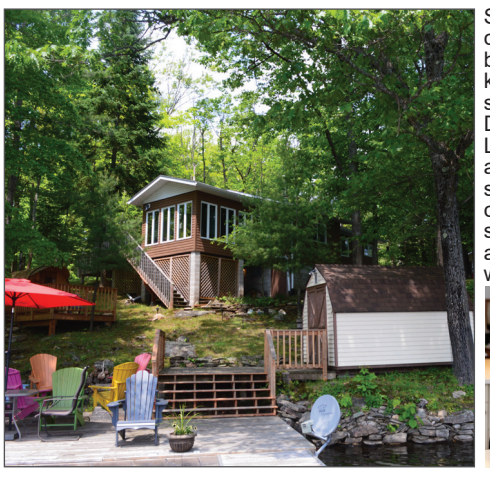
7 STOUFFER ST

Fully Renovated in 2024
Main floor living, vinyl flooring through-out. 2 Bedroom, NEW 5 PC bathroom. 2024 SS Appliances. Attached 2-car garage. Municipal water and sewer. Private yard with treed border.

OPEN HOUSE SEPT. 6, 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Jackie Hardman
Sales Representative
705-879-8041
jackiedhardman@gmail.com

KUSHOG LAKE $809,000



Spotless 4-season cottage, insulated guest cabin. 3-season sunroom w/cathedral beamed ceilings. Modern pine ceiling kitchen w/ skylight, living room w/wood stove & lg master bdrm. 124 ft of frontage. Deep water off dock's end,& walk-in entry. Lakeside deck & dock system, & firepit area and 4-person wood-fired barrel sauna! Solid concrete block foundation w/ crawl space, lake water w/ heated line, UV system, lg rear deck, low maintenance yard and building. new windows, exterior door, washer/dryer (2023+/-). New mudroom.

Deb Lambe
Sales Representative
705-854-0103
debra.lambe@gmail.com

Thrift Warehouse provides vital role in community

THOMAS SMITH
County Life Staff

One person's trash is another's treasure.

But how are you supposed to find that treasure before it ends up in the landfill?

That is the goal of SIRCH Community Services' Thrift Warehouse. To give items a new life before they are buried in the dump, never to be seen again.

Over 15 years ago, local businessman Ted Scholtes had the idea to open a warehouse filled with gently used items. SIRCH has been managing the thrift warehouse for the past decade.

Profits from the sale of the items goes towards programs that support vulnerable families, seniors, and other people in the community.

The Thrift Warehouse is more than just finding great deals. It is a lifeline, social hub, and an environmentally-conscious hidden gem of Haliburton County.

Items first come into the Thrift Warehouse through their large bay door. Gracious donors often line up along the road in the mornings before they are even open. A sign shows a list of rotating items that the thrift store is not accepting, either due to seasonality or their abundance of current stock.

Community impact starts at the hands of SIRCH's Sarah Parish, Trevor Comeau, or Mitchell Van Oosterhout, the three stars of the receiving floor. If you have donated an item to the Thrift Warehouse, you have been greeted with a welcoming smile and a polite thank you for your donation. Every donation is assessed by a staff member to ensure that the quality of the donation meets the standards they have set for their customers.

After donations are accepted, staff sort and clean them (if needed). Items like mason jars can be cleaned and put directly on the shelf. Other houseware items such as cutlery and cups can also be sent right out on the sales floor. Rare and unusual items are researched before they are labelled with an appropriate sticker price.

Electronics and fabrics receive additional attention after entering the warehouse. Every electronic device is thoroughly tested to ensure that it is working. With every type of power cord and video game console controller imaginable, Nick Pamplin is in charge of ensuring that everything works.

A summer student and guitar enthusiast, Pamplin loves the surprise that awaits him every day while working for SIRCH. A lover of older music, Pamplin gets excited every time he gets to try out a CD or cassette before it is sold. From Stratocaster guitars to old P.A. systems, Pamplin says that he has seen every type of media and electronics he can think of.

From left, Sarah Parish, Carole Kester, Trevor Comeau, Payton Somers, Mitchell Van Oosterhout, and Nick Pamplin comprise the Thrift Warehouse's current team. /THOMAS SMITH staff

While he has not had many jobs, Pamplin says that he loves how everyone at SIRCH works as a team and helps each other out when needed.

Beyond the electronic testing area, Payton Somers is in charge of sorting, cleaning, and deodorizing all fabrics and clothing that is donated. Using an industrial dryer, fabrics are treated to kill off anything unwanted and make them have a neutral smell. Previously working as the store's cashier, Somers is fascinated by the variety of items that come through the warehouse's doors.

Somers says that her favourite part of working with SIRCH is the people that come through the doors. Every customer has a story to share and she loves to hear them.

When items are ready, they are priced and are loaded into carts and rolled out to the sales floor. Every item has its area, whether it is electronics, housewares, books, hardware, beds, artworks, or records.

After you find a hidden gem for sale, there is a good chance that the person cashing you out is Carole Kester, the warehouse manager. Every morning, Kester gets to the store at 8:30 a.m. to clean up, unlock the doors, and get the store ready for the day.

For those curious what their most in-demand items are, Kester says that DVD players, microwaves, fridges, washers, dryers, and stoves do not last long on the sales floor.

Walking through the store, everyone has a smile on their face and their eyes dart around, taking in every sight, searching for a treasure.

Approaching one treasure hunter, he says that he takes his family every week to the Thrift Warehouse.

"We come up every week when we are up for the cottage," said loyal customer Peter Hanlon. "Their prices are fantastic."

All items are priced at an accessible level, to ensure dignity and affordability. The labour needed to keep the store stocked, operation costs for the warehouse, opportunity to support SIRCH's charitable programs, and the value of items all contribute to the deal you are getting.

Another highly satisfying part of the job is when staff are able to create packages for those in need, says Kester.

With the intense heat this summer, the Thrift Warehouse has had to close early several times. Fortunately, owner Scholtes installed air conditioning in the store on Aug. 18.

Annually, SIRCH diverts over 100,000 cubic feet of items away from landfills each year. With 89 per cent of every dollar going towards SIRCH's other community programs, know that your next shopping spree contributes directly to food security, educational programs, warming kits, and the ability to bring some ease to those experiencing a moment of crisis.

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m., Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Tuesday: Last Tuesday of the month-liver luncheon with one alternative 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd week at 2 p.m.
Special events: May 11 Mother's day breakfast $13.00/person
Friday night BBQ
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice.
Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Special Events Only, Wednesday: 2 to 10 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Mondays: Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Sept. 23 Veterans Appreciation Dinner. Tickets are $20 each. Veterans and their Spouse are free. Cocktails Start at 4:30 p.m. Dinner to follow.
Wednesdays: Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 Darts $4/player 2 p.m., Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10 5 to 6:30 p.m., Cribbage League 6:30 p.m. – Sign up at the Legion
Thursdays: Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25
Horseshoes $5/player 7 p.m.
Sept. 11, 25 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Fridays: Sept.5, 19 Fish and Chips 1pc/$15, 2pc/$20
Sept. 12, 26 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, noon, Wings and Jam Session $15/lb, 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturdays: Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 Board Games 2 p.m., Meat Draw 3 p.m.
Sept. 6, 20 Open Mic 2 to 6 p.m.. $1 each, Nacho Average Trivia Night 7 p.m.
Sunday: Sept. 14 L.A Breakfast $10. 9 to 11 a.m.
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

Song and dance

The Highlands Opera Studio put on *The Merry Widow* this past weekend at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The show cast a combination of talented locals alongside professionally- trained opera singers, to offer a brilliantly captivating performance for summer theatre-goers. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Haliburton HIGHLANDS Seniors Active Living Centre

Check out this month's SALC events and activities for residents aged 55+

Museum and Village Tour
Sept. 2 and 16 @ 1 p.m.
Genealogy for Beginners
September 3 @ 11 a.m.
Painting Class
September 4 and 18 @ 10 a.m.
Qi Gong Lesson
September 10 @ 2:30 p.m.
Alzheimer Q & A
September 11 @ 10 a.m.
Tree Identification Hike
September 12 @ 10 a.m.
Bone Health 101
September 16 @ 10 a.m.
Mindful Meditation
September 25 @ 10 a.m.
Seniors Fitness
Fridays @ 9 and 11

Drop-in Cards & Board Games

- Mondays 1 p.m. and Thursdays 7 p.m.
  Hosted at Minden Legion
- Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
  Hosted at Dorset Rec Centre
- Thursdays (11 and 25) 1 p.m.
  Hosted at Harcourt Community Centre
- Saturdays 2:30 p.m.
  Hosted at Wilberforce Legion

Haliburton County Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC)

Through this program, older adults (55+) and seniors (65+) are invited to get active, make friends, and be well!

The SALC Program is designed to provide social, cultural, learning, and recreational opportunities for seniors to stay fit, healthy and socially connected in their communities.

SALC Programming is available in Haliburton County beginning in July 2025, through collaboration between the County of Haliburton and local municipalities, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, and multiple partners.

For more information, visit haliburtoncounty.ca/SALC or pick up a full calendar at a participating SALC location, including a Legion or Library near you!

Funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

Ontario

Waste-free Lunches

Pack a lunch that leaves no waste!

A waste-free lunch will make it easy to reduce our waste. There would be a lot less garbage going to landfills if every student, teacher and parent packed a waste-free lunch. Imagine the positive impact we can have on the environment by reducing our waste!

Use these items to pack a waste-free lunch:

Reusable lunch bag | Reusable containers | Reusable water bottle | Reusable cutlery | Cloth napkin

Everything in a waste-free lunch can be EATEN, REUSED, RECYCLED OR COMPOSTED!

Download our Waste-free Lunch flyer with additional tips on packing healthy lunches and snacks at **www.dysartetal.ca/wastefreelunch**

Municipality of Dysart et al

Download our free mobile app **Haliburton County Waste Wizard**
Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

www.dysartetal.ca
705-457-1740

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Our pond by Tammy Nash

Bumblebee by Jill Moulton

Bambi on the driveway by Tammy Nash

Goldfinch by Jill Moulton

classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline Thursday at Noon

County Classifieds

Classified Word Ad Special
25 Words
Your ad will run in
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For sale: Dining Room Table and Four Chairs $100. 2 Love Seats $50 each. Glasstop Coffee Table and End Tables $75. Mastercraft Bandsaw and Oscillating Tube Sander $150 for the pair. A Motor Hoist 2 Ton $200. Contact **705-344-2355**

1998 Polaris INDY XLT touring snowmobile, only 461 miles, looks and maintained as new by original retired owner, stored inside except for Christmas/New Years use, liquid cooled 597cc triple, XTRA 12' suspension front, 12.8 rear, all heated grips, composite skis, electric start, reverse , 280 watt alternator, 75 watt halogen headlights, and more, modern look plus great trail machine for 2 up. Location Eagle Lake. Asking Price $4,250. Contact **905-294-1333**

Ontario Garlic and Scapes, Garlic and Scape powders, Garlic Sauces, Spreads, Jams, Jellies, Pickles, SEED GARLIC. 1434 Kashagawigamog Lake Road. 2.2km from County Road 21. Minden. 705-286-1617 or 705-457-0090.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

CUT SPLIT & DELIVERED seasoned firewood 90% maple/all hardwood. Very clean wood. Dry also available. CALL AND INQUIRE: **705-930-7198**

WANTED

Wanted: scrap cars and trucks. Cash paid. Please call **705-286-3758** or **cell 249-332-1212**

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stevekerrdentureclinic.com

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Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Haliburton Highlands Time Travellers Cruise Night
When: Thurs., Sept 4, 5:30 p.m. to dusk
Where: Kawartha Dairy, Hwy. 35, Minden

Haliburton Highlands Time Travellers Cruise Night
When: Thurs., Sept 11, 5:30 p.m. to dusk
Where: Haliubrotn Library parking lot, Haliuburton

Needle Felting Workshop
When: Friday, Sept. 5 from 11 a.m. to noon
Where: Wilberforce Library
Craft your own soft, colorful autumn leaves in this relaxing needle felting workshop at the Wilberforce library on Friday, September 5 from 11am-12pm. Using simple techniques, you'll create textured leaves—perfect as decorations or thoughtful gifts. Materials will be provided. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Cast Your Vote
When: Saturday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon
Where: Dysart Library
Drop by the library for a relaxed, social atmosphere where you can cast your vote for your favourite Evergreen Award-nominated title while sipping a warm cup of coffee or tea and enjoying light refreshments. Your vote helps choose this year's winner of the Evergreen Award - part of the Ontario Library Association's Forest of Reading program.

Canning 101
When: Saturday, September 6 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
Join us for Canning 101, a beginner-friendly workshop all about preserving the fresh flavours of summer. In this hands-on session, we'll cover the basics of home canning - including water bath techniques, food safety, and storage - as well as explore other methods like freezing and drying. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Creative Craft Session
When: Wednesday, Sept. 10 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
Join us for a creative craft session designed for adults! Using simple materials like pipe cleaners, beads, and floral tape, you'll learn how to twist and shape vibrant pipe cleaner flowers. All materials will be provided. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Create a Fun Craft
When: Sept. 11 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
All ages are welcome to create a fun craft. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a caregiver. No registration required.

Drop-In Tech Help Session
When: Friday, Sept. 12 between noon and 2 p.m.
Where: Stanhope Library
Got a tech question or issue? Drop by the library for a Drop-In Tech Help Session for quick, friendly, and expert assistance. Whether you're struggling with your smartphone, computer, apps, or any other tech-related problem, library tech support is here to help you get back on track. Come to the Stanhope library on Friday, Sept. 19 between 12 and 2 p.m.

The Art and Craft of a Short Story Workshop
When: Saturday, Sept. 13 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Dysart Library
Join writer and screenwriter Hope Thompson for a creative and engaging workshop focused on the art and craft of the short story. Through group discussion and guided activities, participants will explore key elements such as character, structure, and narrative voice. You're encouraged to bring your work and questions. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Point in Time Presents: An Evening with Kael Reid
When: Sept. 13, 7 to 9 p.m.
Where: The Music Room at Castle,
223 Highland St. Haliburton
Queer folksinger and recording artist Kael Reid is a whip-smart wordsmith who is sure to entertain. Come join us and get your Pride on! Tickets $25 in advance or $30 at the door. Proceeds towards the expansion of the Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub. Sponsored by: Point in Time/Youth Hub, The Music Room at Castle, Pride in the Highlands. For more information call 705-457-5345.

Haliburton Veterans Decoration Day
Where: St. Anthony and Evergreen Cemetery,
Pine Street, Haliburton
When: Monday, September 15, 2025 at 10 a.m.
Opening ceremonies at the St. Anthony Cemetery with music provided by Gord Kidd. White crosses will be placed on veterans gravesides at St. Anthony and then Evergreen Cemetery (Approx. 180 crosses) by Legion & Ladies Auxiliary members, Haliburton Lions members and the senior students from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (Independent Studies Class). Closing ceremonies at Evergreen Cemetery with music provided by Gord Kidd. Light refreshments will follow the placing of the crosses. The cross will remain in place until the following Sunday.

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Certified Technician

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MNR gives more time to consider fish policy

by SUE BACHNER
Staff Reporter

While it's good news to some that the Ministry of Natural Resources has decided to give the public more time to consider the Natural Trout Management Strategy, there's still a sense of skepticism about the outcome.

"We have to be conservative on one hand, but we also must be careful not to hurt the local economy," says Dan Buhl, local representative for the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

MNR's strategy is to protect naturally-producing Brook and Lake Trout. In public reviews held last month, the Ministry suggested that stocking the lakes that naturally produce these breeds of fish should stop because it has resulted in a less healthy breed. New stocking guidelines and fishing restrictions have been suggested.

Limiting the size of fish that can be removed from the water and banning of live bait are among some of the suggestions that have local politicians and businesspersons worried about the economic impact of the proposal.

MNR originally gave the public until August 10 to respond to a questionnaire, but due to widespread concerns about the lack of advertising of public forums, and little time to consider the pros and cons of such a strategy, the Ministry has agreed to extend the deadline to September 23.

"That's good news," says Dysart et al Councillor Murray Fearrey. "It will give people a chance to respond." Through letters to the editor in local newspapers and more public discussion, there will be more awareness in the county before final decisions are made.

Buhl says that the timing of the proposal was not opportune, with so many on holidays. "It's good common sense that they set a new date."

Anson, Hindon and Minden reeve Bern Berry is also pleased to see the Ministry has given the public more time, but is still not satisfied with the way it approached the strategy in the first place. "I still don't think the meetings were well advertised...I don't say I read the papers front

Please turn to page 2

Hospitals warn public:

■ Patients might need HIV test

by SUE BACHNER
Staff Reporter

From 1978 to 1985, at a time when the letters HIV were not yet familiar enough to stand alone, blood donors across Canada were not screened for infection. As a result, the odds of finding out that a blood donor infected you with HIV – the virus that causes AIDS – are one in 14,000 according to the Canadian Red Cross Society.

In a province-wide attempt to track down the blood recipients from this period, Peterborough and Haliburton County Hospitals opened a three-week hotline in July for anyone who thought they might have received a blood transfusion at any of the four hospitals. By the end of the three weeks, 908 people called the hotline, which was advertised in local newspapers.

Approximately two percent of the calls came from the Haliburton County area, says Tanya Stewart, co-ordinator of public relations at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Centre in Peterborough. There were no requests from callers who thought they had a transfusion at either Haliburton or Minden Hospital.

Hospital personnel determine if individuals received blood during those years by doing a manual search of transfusion records. If the person had received blood, it is up to the family physician to notify the patient. "It's still the person's prerogative if they want the (HIV) test done," whether the person did or did not receive blood during that period, says Stewart.

Testing for HIV is a simple procedure. It's free and virtually painless – all that is needed is a teaspoon of blood that is driven to a provincial lab. The results go back to the family physician as soon as they are available.

"This isn't a scare tactic," says Stewart, of the newspaper ads. "It's to make people aware this has been identified as a problem."

Although the risk is minimal according to Canadian Red Cross Society's statistics, it's still an issue to be looked at. Once a person has been infected with HIV, it can take at least 10 years for AIDS symptoms to appear. In the mean time, the individual could be infecting sexual partners or a fetus. Tracking down blood recipients could be one way of reducing the spread of AIDS.

The general public commonly

Please turn to page 2

All eyes on the ball

On Sunday night, the staff of Minden IGA went bat-to-bat against the staff of Haliburton IGA. It soom became clear that the Minden team had the superior hitting power, with players often hitting the ball over the fence at the Dysart ball diamond. Here, Blair Johnson, Adam McMartin, Tim Robinson, Rick Mallette, Kelly Dollo, Nicki Dollo and Andy Bacon watch a teammate's ball soar. Each team is donating $100 to the Minden food bank, the charity chosen by the winning Minden team. There are more game pictures on page 8.

OPP busy with car accidents

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

After a relatively quiet summer on the roads, the Minden OPP was certainly kept busy last week.

The biggest accident involved an 80,000-pound roll of rubber, which rolled right off a tractor trailer on Hwy 35 across from Kushog Lake on Wednesday afternoon.

The rubber was enroute from a Goodyear plant in Bowmanville to a factory in Alberta. It is to be used as a conveyor belt. Because the load was so high, it was travelling up Hwy 35 where there are few bridges or overhangs.

Driver Lloyd Magrum of Alberta was northbound on the highway when he rounded a corner and his truck jackknifed. The rubber fell off the trailer and the jackknifed truck continued up the highway for about 80 metres.

"Luckily no one was hurt," says Minden OPP communications officer Mike Landry. It is not known why the truck jackknifed.

The rubber landed against a rock cut on the east side of the highway.

The truck and trailer were

Please turn to page 2

School teaches new meaning of success

by SUE BACHNER
Staff Reporter

Summer school. If you have never been in the Highlands, chances are the meaning of this term would be slanted slightly toward the derogatory. But if you have ever heard the word spoken in this area of the province, you know there's definitely something different about the response it receives here.

Shortly after Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students have emptied their lockers in June, people literally flock through the school's corridors and into the classrooms to learn how to sculpt, paint, carve, quilt, weave, sew, or learn from a professional milliner.

A milliner? If you don't know what that is, you haven't attended one of the new art classes at the Sir Sandford Fleming School of Fine Arts. Millinery is hat making, and it is one of the progam additions that has taken off to a popular start.

The School of Fine Arts has been able to spread its wings into other areas this year, all of which have received terrific responses. Art therapy has attracted a wide market of learners among social service professionals, such as teachers and psychotherapists. But the most popular courses are still watercolour painting, pottery and life drawing, says principal Barb Bolin.

About two-thirds of the classes have been filled to capacity, and many people have decided to spend the entire summer in classes rather than taking in one or two of the weekly workshops. At 2,750 students, enrollment is up 10 percent this year.

"We've had lots of interesting people coming in," Bolin says. What has impressed her most this year is the number of advanced artists registering.

"In one class of 15, six of them were art school graduates from Ontario and three graduated from art schools in Europe." Next summer she plans to cater to this advanced market more than in the past.

"One of the other things that we've seen at the school is a lot of our teachers coming back and taking courses, and that's something they've never done before."

Also, more elementary school teachers than ever have been trying to develop hands-on artistic skills that they can offer in their own classrooms.

After just one week of learning, students are leaving the corridors with a new masterpiece they created themselves. But before they leave with it you can look over some of their work in its final stages. Each Thursday afternoon starting at 4 p.m., after classes end, the public is invited to Haliburton Highlands Secondary School for a walk-about.

FINE ART: Robert Bradshaw and Trisha Langley from Bracebridge watch as Nikki Young demonstrates what she learned last week in a weaving workshop at Sir Sandford Fleming's School of Fine Arts.

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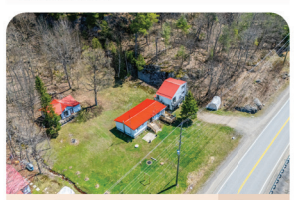

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